19

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing a user interface for use by a portable processing device for accessing and navigating patient record information, comprising the steps of:

receiving user identification information for use in authorizing user operation of said portable processing device;

initiating display of an image including a plurality of links to a corresponding plurality of individual patients;

initiating display of a patient record content index image including a plurality of links to a corresponding plurality of items of patient record information in response to user selection of a link to one of said plurality of individual patients; and

initiating display of an image including information comprising a portion of a patient record in response to user selection of a link to one of said plurality of items of patient record information.

2. A method according to claim 1, including the step of,

initiating generation of patient record content index data for display in said content index image by one of, (a) initiating generation by an application located in a remote device and (b) initiating generation by an application in said portable processing device.

3. A method according to claim 2, including the step of

deriving content index information from patient record information by parsing patient record information ancillary data to identify distinct patient record information sections.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein

said ancillary data comprises at least one of, (a) header data of said acquired patient record information, (b) descriptive data in a data field of said acquired patient record information, (c) identification data in a data field of said acquired patient record information, and (d) text data derived by parsing content of said acquired patient record information.

20

5. A method according to claim 1, including the step of,

initiating display of an image including a plurality of links to a corresponding plurality of lists of patients, and wherein said step of initiating display of an image including a plurality of links to a corresponding plurality of individual patients is performed in response to user selection one of said plurality of links to a corresponding plurality of lists of patients.

6. A method according to claim 1, including the step of,

initiating display of an image icon for display in a plurality of images, said image icon supporting at least one of, (a) initiating display of said image including links to a plurality of lists of patients, (b) initiating display of said image including a plurality of links to a corresponding plurality of individual patients, (c) initiating display of said patient record content index image including a plurality of links to a corresponding plurality of items of patient record information and (d) initiating display of medical record information for a next patient.

7. A method according to claim 1, including the step of,

maintaining a row element stationary upon horizontally scrolling an image screen display including other elements of said row.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein

said stationary row element is the first data element of said row.

9. A method according to claim 1, including the step of,

maintaining a column element stationary upon vertically scrolling a image screen display including other elements of said column.

10. A user interface method for use by a portable processing device for accessing and navigating patient record information, comprising the steps of:

receiving user identification information for use in authorizing user operation of said portable processing device;

acquiring patient record information from an information repository;

initiating generation of a patient record content index image by deriving content information from ancillary data associated with said acquired patient record information; and

initiating display of said patient record contents image including a plurality of links to a corresponding plurality of items of patient medical record information.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein

said step of initiating display of said patient record content index image is performed in response to user selection of a link to a particular patient.

12. A method according to claim 10, including the step of

initiating display of an image including information comprising an item of patient medical information in response to user selection of a link to one of said plurality of items of patient medical record information.

13. A user interface method for use by a portable processing device for accessing and navigating patient record information, comprising the steps of:

receiving user identification information for use in authorizing user operation of said portable processing device;

initiating display of a patient record content index image including a plurality of links to a corresponding plurality of items of patient record information;

initiating display of an image including a recorded patient medical parameter value and an associated medical parameter label comprising an item of patient record information in response to user selection of a link to one of said plurality of items of patient record information; and

initiating display of at least one of, (a) a reference range for said medical parameter and (b) a unit of measure for said medical parameter in response to user selection of said medical parameter label.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein

said reference range comprises a normal value range for said medical parameter.

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein

said medical parameter label is a URL link, and

said at least one of, (a) a reference range for said medical parameter and (b) a unit of measure for said medical parameter, is acquired and displayed using said medical parameter label URL.

16. A method according to claim 13, including the step of

initiating display of an image including a plurality of links to a corresponding plurality of individual patients; and wherein

said step of initiating display of a patient record content index image is performed in response to user selection of a link to one of said plurality of individual patients.

17. A method according to claim 13, including the step of,

initiating generation of said patient record content index image by deriving content information from ancillary data associated with acquired patient record information.

18. A system for providing a user interface for use by a portable processing device for accessing and navigating patient record information, comprising:

a communication network for receiving user identification information for use in authorizing user operation of said portable processing device; and

a display processor for,

initiating display of an image including a plurality of links to a corresponding plurality of individual patients;

initiating display of a patient record content index image including a plurality of links to a corresponding plurality of items of patient record information in response to user selection of a link to one of said plurality of individual patients; and

initiating display of an image including information comprising a portion of a patient record in response to user selection of a link to one of said plurality of items of patient record information.

19. A processing system supporting remote operation of a plurality of portable processing devices used for accessing and navigating patient record information, comprising the steps of:

validating user identification information received from a portable processing device and communicating operation authorization to said portable processing device;

deriving content index information from patient record information by parsing patient record information ancillary data to identify distinct patient record information sections; and

communicating to said portable processing device patient record information including said patient record content index data in response to a request for said patient record information from said portable processing device.

20. A system according to claim 19, including the step of,

communicating to said portable processing device at least one of, (a) a reference range for said medical parameter and (b) a unit of measure for said medical parameter in response to receiving a message addressed to a URL associated with a medical parameter label.

21. A method according to claim 19, wherein

said ancillary data comprises at least one of, (a) header data of said acquired patient record information, (b) descriptive data in a data field of said acquired patient record information, (c) identification data in a data field of said acquired patient record information, and (d) text data derived by parsing content of said acquired patient record information.